

Welcome to a special Monday edition of the Mayor's Weekly column. I held back from posting last Thursday as it was September 11th, and did not want to lose sight of the reflection that should occur on that day.

As I sit in my office today on beautiful September morning, I am hoping that this tremendous weather can be replicated on Saturday for the Second Annual ChowderFest on River Street.

Obviously this summer has been like no other in the City of Troy when it comes to offering free entertainment to our residents and neighbors in the Capital District. It started out with the 5th Annual River Street Festival, and continued throughout the entire summer with the 6-week Rockin' On The River concert series, the inaugural Troy Pig Out, the Valley Cats All-Star Fan Festival featuring Eddie Money, the Powers Park Concert Series, the Collar City Pops, and the list goes on and on.

The culmination comes Saturday with the much anticipated ChowderFest. As of this morning, the following restaurants are scheduled to be in attendance: Albany Pump Station, Arnets, Cajun Catering, Brown's Brewery, Century House, Crooked Lake House, Flavour Café, Francesca's, Holmes and Watson, Illium Café, Irish Mist, Jackie Baldwin, Jose Malone's, Le Marche Vert, Milanos/Provence, Muza Diner, Old Daley Inn, Oliver's Naturals, Patricelli's, Potter's Tavern, Rusty Anchor, Ryan's Wake, Salty's Pub, Spillin' The Beans, Ted's Fish Fry, Terra Café, The Ale House, The Sports Grill, Tosca, Trader Ed's, Troy Food Co-Op, and Yanni's.

That is quite a list. The organizers expect to add a few more restaurants in the coming days.

The Chowder portion of the event is scheduled to run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., though my advice to everyone would be to get there nice and early, as large crowds will run through the more than 20,000 samples faster than the allotted time, particularly if we have a beautiful day. Each sample of Chowder will cost you just \$1, and will be hard to leave hungry.

The second portion of the event will be highlighted by a performance from country music star Jimmy Wayne, who is currently everywhere on the country charts with his smash hit "Do You Believe Me Now." He is number one on some charts, number two on others, three is the lowest he currently stands.

We are expecting large crowds to watch the Jimmy Wayne performance, which will begin at 5 p.m. There are two local warm up acts- Renee Lussier and Branchwater, and Loose Cannon Live!. That music will begin at 3 p.m. The stage for the concert will in the exact location as it was for Rockin' On The River, in the parking lot just north of the Green Island Bridge.

The awards ceremony for all of the Chowder winners will take place 3:30 p.m.

We obviously cannot undertake these events without the generous support of many people and companies. Our wonderful sponsors for the ChowderFest this year include: Sam Adams, WGNA, Tosca, Westminster Cracker, Chevrolet, County Waste, Pioneer Savings Bank, the Troy Downtown Collaborative and the Troy Record.

If you are planning on attending the event, be sure to park in one of the City parking structures- Uncle Sam Parking garage, located at the intersection of 3rd and River Streets, the Front Street Lot behind City Hall, or the parking garage located at 5th and Broadway.

I can't wait to see everyone on Saturday! Be sure to bring your appetites.

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy